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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

25X1 INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany

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DATE:

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SUBJECT The Berlin Radio Station and Russian Control
of Radio in the Soviet Zone

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25X1 1. In mid-August 1946 Hans Mahle became Director-General of all radio stations
25X1 in the Soviet Zone. He relinquished his former position as intendant of
25X1 Radio Berlin to Max Seydewitz. The latter's deputy is Girus, from the Central
Administration for Education, who is head of the Broadcasts Section. A
second deputy is Dr. Weigt, who is in charge of commercial and technical
matters. All three of these men are members of the SED, as are also all the
25X1 section chiefs, with the exception of Fuchs, head of the "Pulse Beat" section,
who was one of the founders of the CDU.
25X1 [redacted] Heinz Schmidt, former journalist [redacted] has
25X1 since been appointed general coordinator of radio programs. He, rather than
the sub-intendants, will choose programs of a political and educational nature
and will control emphasis of the current point of view.

25X1 2. [redacted] on 22 August 1946, Girus spoke to the employees of
Radio Berlin. He stated that his political views were based on the theory
of society of Karl Marx. Some quotations from Girus' speech follow:

- "Radio is the most important propaganda instrument there is."
- "This station must work for the establishment of a higher order of society."
- "There is no neutrality....there is no non-political radio.
We openly declare that our radio is political and is going to remain political."

3. In a talk on 25 September 1946 on the financial situation of the radio stations in the Russian Zone, Girus stated that there are 1,800,000 radio listeners in the Russian Zone who pay a total of 3,600,000 RM per month tax for their radios. Thirty percent of this money (1,080,000 RM) is earmarked to cover the expenses of all the transmitters in the Russian Zone. However, expenses at Radio Berlin have been running at approximately 1,300,000 RM monthly. Radio Leipzig uses 400,000 to 500,000 RM monthly, and the Dresden, Weimar, Schwerin, Halle, and Potsdam stations each spend about 70,000 RM monthly. Karlshorst has, therefore, arranged that approximately half the radio tax money will be made available to the various radio stations. The budget of each radio station will have to be cut by 15% in order not to exceed the income. Nevertheless, Karlshorst has assured Radio Berlin that all absolutely necessary expenses will be met.

25X1 4. In regard to administrative channels and controls Girus stated that Radio

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Berlin has been under the Central Administration for Education since 12 July 1946, and is regarded as the main station of the Soviet Zone rather than the city station of Berlin. The transmitter in Tegel is under the control of the Berlin Post Office. If the city of Berlin should cut Radio Berlin off the air, neither the Central Administration for Posts nor the Central Administration for Education would have legal recourse, according to Girnus.

5. During September 1946, a considerable number of employees at Radio Berlin were interrogated individually by Soviet officers. All these employees were under twenty-one years of age; the majority were girls. The interrogations themselves were held behind closed doors by six Soviet officers, including one or two women officers, and an interpreter.
6. The main object of these interrogations appears to have been an attempt to determine to what extent young employees have contact with US or British military personnel. The following are sample questions: "Do you know any American or British soldiers?" "What do you talk about, what did they ask you?" "How intimate are your contacts?" "Would you consider marrying a young Russian?" "If you were allowed to vote, which party would you choose?"

25X1 7. [redacted] the interrogations were intended to intimidate those who were questioned and to discourage them from talking too freely about their work with American or British personnel. The Shop Council, after receiving more than twenty complaints, discussed the interrogations at a recent meeting. While the SED members of the Shop Council justified the interrogations under Law I, Central Council, it was decided to request an explanation from the chief control officer.

8. During the week ending 5 September 1946, time devoted to election propaganda by Radio Berlin was distributed as follows among the various parties:

SED	85.24	per cent
CDU	6.67	" "
LDP	4.93	" "
SPD	3.16	" "

9. Contrary to an earlier directive, according to which the SPD was not to be attacked, Radio Berlin has now been instructed to lay emphasis on the anti-Sovietism of the SPD and on the differences between SPD leadership and the rank and file members. Radio Berlin has received another directive from Soviet political officers to emphasize the necessity of abolishing zonal boundaries. There will be interviews, striking examples of economic difficulties created by the boundaries, and possibly lectures propagandizing a speedy elimination of zonal barriers. For the present there are to be no comments whatsoever on problems connected with Germany's eastern boundaries.
10. It has also been reported that SMA Karlsruhe will build a radio transmitter of exceptional power and range for the Soviet Zone. Josef Schwab, former editor-in-chief of Neues Deutschland, and generally regarded as one of the coming men in the SED, is slated to be in charge of this new station.

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